



Express Mail  
ER525323938US

## DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Turning first to Fig. 1 there is shown the present invention, ((Improved)) Bidet, in a partially assembled configuration. Shown are removable spray nozzle 1, that is removably mounted on a tubular spray arm 2. The spray nozzle could have male threads at the tubular spray arm end with female threads on the tubular spray arm, or the spray nozzle could be frictionally secured to the tubular spray arm. There are other methods of attachment that could be used that would permit secure, but not permanent, attachment and at the same time ease of removal. The tubular spray arm is formed of a tubular member 2, having a first end 19, a second end 20, and a mid section 21. Said tubular member is shaped to accommodate the curvature of a toilet bowl and seat. In the preferred embodiment the spray nozzle is sized and shaped to be frictionally secured onto the tubular member first end. The tubular spray arm 2 has a spring activated bracket 3, shown in a disassembled configuration. The spring activated bracket 3 is comprised of a mounting plate, or second bracket section 23 that would be used to secure the bracket to the underside of a conventional toilet seat, a washer, a pin, a spray arm plate or first bracket section 22 fixedly secured to the spray arm and a spring. The pin is situated in order that the pin goes thru a hole in the mounting plate and a hole in the spray arm plate forming an axis of rotation for the spray arm plate. The spring activated bracket 3 would be mounted to the underside of a conventional toilet seat portion of a conventional toilet bowl as ((that are not)) shown at Fig. 6. The mounting to the underside of the conventional toilet seat could make use of a bolt or pin for quick removal. The spring portion of the spring activated bracket 3 extends as

the tubular spray arm 2 is moved to place the spray nozzle 1 in the area of intended use, causing tension on the spring, and returns the tubular spray arm 2 to an out of the way position under the seat or against the side of the toilet bowl when the tubular spray arm is released and not in use. The removable spray nozzle 1 allows for cleaning and sanitation of the removable spray nozzle 1 without any time consuming or complicated procedure. As the removable spray nozzle 1 is easily removable it is also possible to have several spray nozzles with different spray patterns to accommodate the users individual preference. It also allows for unique requirements due to the individual's personal physical or medical requirements.

The pivotal mounting of the tubular spray arm 2, at the spring activated bracket 3, allows for individual needs or preferences of the user as to spray location. With a spring activated bracket 3 the tubular spray arm 2 and removable spray nozzle 1 are quickly and safely removed from the spray area when not in use. The first end of the spring is attached to the portion of the spring activated bracket that is secured to the underside of the toilet seat with the second end of the spring being attached to the portion of the spring activated bracket that is fixedly secured to the tubular spray arm. The spring is sized and shaped in order that the spring tension causes the tubular spray arm to remain in an inactive position unless pressure is applied to the tubular spray arm causing the tubular spray arm to swing into the active position. The tension of the spring when in the active position is such that the user is not required to apply an inordinate amount of force.

The invention provides for an adjustable spray pressure and volume. The invention provides a means in order that the pressure and volume of the spray may be adjusted to not exceed a maximum safe limit. In this embodiment a set screw 6 is used however it would be

practical to use another means to adjust the volume and pressure, or two means to adjust the volume and pressure separately. The component elements of the invention are capable of withstanding a maximum pressure of 125 psi. In some installations the supply line pressure may exceed safe limits for direct skin contact, or may fluctuate and from time to time exceed the safe limit. The present invention incorporates a set screw 6 to control the pressure, the set screw 6 also acts to control the volume. The ability to adjust the volume allows the user to vary the volume to suit the users particular requirements. The movement of the set screw 6 is restricted to insure that the pressure will not exceed 70psi.

The invention includes a spring loaded self closing valve 4 to insure that the flow of water stops when not in use or in the event the user's attention is diverted.. In order for there to be any flow of water the valve handle must be depressed. The spring loaded self closing valve could be an off the shelf item.

Water temperature is also of major importance to insure that the users skin is not exposed to water that exceeds safe limits. The present invention provides a mixing valve 7, shown in Fig. 2, that combines the input hot water with the input cold water. The mixing valve 7 is designed to restrict the combined water temperature to be no more than 110° F. This reduces the possibility of injury due to fluctuating temperature of the input hot water. The mixing valve has an adjustment knob that permits the varying of the ratio of hot water to cold water from a ratio were no hot water is entering the valve with the resultant combined outlet water being the temperature of the cold water to a ratio were sufficient hot water is entering the valve with the resultant combined outlet water being no more than 110°F. The mixing valve would be a standard off the shelf item.

A vacuum breaker 5 is incorporated to insure that there is no possibility of backflow of the spray water into the water supply. The backflow could carry contaminated water to other outlets in the building or even outside the building, the vacuum breaker 5 prevents any such backflow. The vacuum breaker 5 also insures that water on the spray nozzle side of the vacuum breaker 5 cannot reenter the water supply. The vacuum breaker has an inlet fitting 24 and an outlet fitting 25. The vacuum breaker would be an off the shelf item.

Also incorporated is a diverter T 8 that permits the addition of various substances at an injection port 9 into the spray water. The substances would usually be in liquid form however it would be possible to add dissolvable crystals, cubes or gels. The substance being added could be scented, anti bacterial, medicated or a cleansing agent. The diverter T 8 also prevents water backflow. Conventional supply lines provide hot and cold water to the mixing valve 7 which then supplies the combined hot and cold water to the bidet. A double hose service hose 11 is used to pass the water thru the vacuum breaker 5 and also the diverter T 8.

Fig. 4 shows a side cutaway view of the diverter T 8 indicating how the internal cavities causes the water to flow in from the self closing valve 4 at the primary inlet "a", the water is then diverted to the vacuum breaker 5 at the primary outlet "b", by means of the double hose service hose 11, the water then flows back from the vacuum breaker 5 at the secondary inlet "c", by means of the double hose service hose 11, allowing for the addition of various substances at the injection port 9 the water then flows to the tubular spray arm 2 at the secondary outlet "d".

As shown several of the components may be connected by the use of threaded joints, including the tubular spray arm and spray nozzle for increased ease in removal and replacement.

Fig. 5 shows a cut away view of the self closing valve 4 joined to the diverter T 8. The

self closing valve with an internal cavity, an inlet, an outlet and an activation means, said activation means being a spring, a plurality of washers, a plunger, a pivoting handle, and a range of movement restricting set screw, said pivoting handle may be depressed or released, said spring, plurality of washers and plunger being positioned within said internal cavity, said plunger interacting with both said pivoting handle and said spring, said plunger having a range of movement from an open first position to a fully closed second position, said spring positioned to cause said plunger to return to the fully closed second position when the handle is released, said range of movement restricting set screw positioned in the handle in order that it may be adjusted within a range from a first unrestricted position to a second fully restricted position, when the movement restricting set screw is in the first unrestricted position the handle has range of movement permitting maximum pressure up to 70 psi of mixed water when depressed, when the movement restricting set screw is in the second fully restricted position the handle has range of movement permitting maximum pressure up to 0 psi of mixed water when depressed, said self closing valve outlet being sized and shaped in order that said diverter T primary inlet end is fixedly secured therein((;)) A section of standard tubing 10 is used to deliver mixed hot and cold water from the mixing valve 7 to self closing valve 4.

From the foregoing description it will be apparent that modifications can be made to the apparatus without departing from the teaching of the present invention. Accordingly, it is distinctly understood that the invention is not limited to the preferred embodiment but may be embodied and practiced within the scope of the following claims.